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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS**



# PRESS RELEASE

## ETCOG Transportation System Announces Extended Hours

**Kilgore, TX, May 1, 2009:** In order to accommodate a growing need for public transportation as well as provide customers in East Texas with better service, ETCOG adopted a new operating schedule giving Rural Transit District (RTD) riders expanded hours to travel.

The RTD will transition from standard operating hours of 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM Monday through Friday to 6:00 AM - 7:00 PM Monday through Friday beginning Monday, May 4. The new operating schedule will be for the RTD's demand/response program, in which customers call 1.800.590.3371 24 hours in advance to schedule a trip. These new hours will also apply to the Marshall flex bus routes.

*"We know it can be tough for our customers to get out of work and complete errands by 6:00 PM," said Transportation Director, John Hedrick. "Expanding our service hours is something we wanted to do to make it easier for our customers who rely on public transportation."*

ETCOG began providing rural public transportation in 1990, initially utilizing a fleet of vehicles purchased with Area Agency on Aging(AAA) funds and contracting with the AAA's Elderly Transportation Contractors. The Rural Transit District's fleet of 43 buses now provides demand/response transportation throughout East Texas for riders of all ages, as well as operates the Marshall Bus System, Kilgore's Ranger Ride between Longview and Kilgore Campuses, and Northeast Texas Community College campus transportation.

For more information, contact Transportation Director, John Hedrick, at (903) 984-8641 x242 or John.Hedrick@etcog.org.

### **About ETCOG**

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.

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